

DCFS Weekly Update From the State Office

Tuesday, September 4, 2001

New Director for Utah Children

By Richard Anderson

As noted in a July 18, 2001 press release, Utah Children made the announcement that Karen Crompton has been selected as their new Executive Director, effective August 1, 2001. In announcing the appointment, Board Chair David Buchman stated, "We are confident that we have found the dynamic leader to move forward our advocacy for the children of Utah whose parents are least able to nurture and protect them." Noting her business, community, and political expertise, Buchman expressed every confidence in her ability to lead a non-partisan organization.

In discussion with the Search Committee, Crompton said, "My interest in local politics is that it touches people's lives on a daily basis. No issue is more local or more directly affects each of us than the well-being of families and children in our communities. For me, politics has always been about making a difference, and I can think of no better place to make a difference than in the lives of our children."

Crompton grew up in Bountiful and is a political science graduate of the University of Utah with additional academic training in journalism. The Search Committee, led by former board chair Lon Richardson, screened some 30 applicants before selecting Crompton. Richardson noted Crompton's bi-partisan recommendations that lauded her ability to work with people of diverse views. Other members of the Search Committee were Jay Aldous, Daryl Barrett, Irene Fisher, Dodie Tudor, and Senior Judge Regnal Garff.

In appraising her successor, out-going director Roz McGee pointed to Karen Crompton's long and successful career as a retail executive and her demonstrated knowledge of Utah's political process. Additionally, she noted that Crompton and her husband David are the parents of two young boys, Chance age 10 and Hart age 7, giving her daily experiences with the challenges of the important role of parenting.

I already had the pleasure of meeting with Karen and welcome her to her new position with Utah Children. I look forward to working with her as I have worked with Roz McGee in the past. For those of you who are not familiar with Utah Children, it is a statewide child advocacy organization and is a member of the National Association of Child Advocates. Founded in 1985 by community leaders who recognized the need for an independent voice for children, Utah Children is an established leader in researching and advocating for policies that strengthen families and protect children. Utah Children is located at 757 East South Temple in Salt Lake City, and its website address is www.utahchildren.net.

New Round of Qualitative Case Reviews Begin This Month

By Aude Bermond-Hamlet, Office of Services Review

As most of you probably know, we are starting our new round of Qualitative Case Reviews (QCRs) this month. The review schedule is listed in the table below.

Like last year, Western Region is the first one to go and we wish them good luck. There has been so much activity going on around implementing the Practice Model, we are confident that it will be reflected in the results.

Review Dates	Region
Sep. 17-21, 2001	Western
Oct. 22-26, 2001	Southwest
Nov. 2001	<i>No review</i>
Dec. 3-7, 2001	Cottonwood
Jan. 14-18, 2002	Granite
Feb. 2002	<i>No review</i>
Mar. 18-22, 2002	Salt Lake
Apr. 15-19, 2002	Eastern
May 13-17, 2002	Northern

I would like to thank all of the DCFS staff who have responded to our email asking them to participate as reviewers. We have seen a strong interest this year in being trained to be a QCR reviewer. When we select reviewers, we try to accommodate everyone's wishes. However, at this time we will not be able to accommodate everyone. We try to use reviewers from every region and various offices, with Practice Model trainers given preference, as well as people interested in becoming certified. Reviewers are selected about six to eight weeks before the review. Those selected will be notified no later than six weeks before the review. Thank you again for adjusting your busy schedules to help.

Here are a couple of changes to the QCR process. First, it has been decided that reviewers interested in becoming certified will be provided an additional day of training after they have shadowed a case or two. This training is intended to provide more in-depth understanding of the QCR protocol and address any uncertainties and questions of the reviewers. It will also help them learn to coach future reviewers. Second, the protocol underwent some minor changes. Some of the terminology has been adapted to reflect the Practice Model (the terms "Service Teams" and "Service Plans" are changed to "Child and Family Teams" and "Child and Family Plans"). We also have added a questionnaire to evaluate compliance with the federal ICWA requirements. If you have any questions or would like to know more about the QCR, don't hesitate to email or call me at 801-538-4386. Good luck to all!

For general comments, suggestions, or questions about the weekly updates, e-mail Carol Miller or call 801-538-4451.

For questions about policy or rules, e-mail Steve Bradford or call 801-538-8210.

For questions about SAFE, call the SAFE Help Desk at 801-538-4141.